

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

March 19, 2010

The Honorable John Oliver
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
Transportation-HUD Subcommittee
2358-A Rayburn HOB
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Tom Latham
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
Transportation-HUD Subcommittee
2349 Rayburn HOB
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Oliver and Ranking Member Latham:

As you prepare the Transportation-HUD FY2011 appropriations bill, we respectfully request that you include \$14.88 billion for federal transit programs. According to the American Public Transportation Association (APTA), this is the amount necessary to maintain our systems in a state of good repair, and accommodate an expected doubling of transit ridership over the next 20 years:

The demand for transit service is on the rise. In 2008, transit ridership reached its highest level in five decades. Despite the increase in ridership, public transportation agencies are finding it difficult to keep up with demand. Public transportation agencies all across the country are proposing job cuts, service reductions and fare hikes. This situation is likely to worsen as state and local governments are forced to make budget cuts in the face of economic recession and revenue shortfalls.

The American Recovery & Reinvestment Act (ARRA) helped to lessen the impact of the economic downturn by providing an additional \$8.4 billion in transit capital funding. To date, approximately 87% of these funds have been awarded, with the remaining funds pending approval. Over 2800 transit projects are under contract, producing over 89,000 direct on-project jobs. Unfortunately, much of this progress could be lost if we do not continue to provide adequate levels of investment in transit programs.

The President's FY11 Budget Request includes only \$10.8 billion for federal transit programs; a .6% increase over FY10 enacted levels. Also of note, this request includes only \$8.27 billion for transit capital formula programs and \$1.82 billion for New Starts, which are decreases from the FY10 enacted levels. While we recognize that we are facing a difficult budget climate, we fear that \$10.8 billion is simply not enough to maintain the current system, and to continue the proper investments in our public transportation system.

We respectfully request that the Transportation-HUD FY2011 appropriations bill provide an increase in transit funding necessary to meet the demonstrated need around the country, and to continue investment in job creation. We thank you for your long standing commitment to public transportation, and we appreciate your continued support. Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



John P. Carg

Betty Sutton

Michael H. Meckard

Rush Holt

Bob Filner

Myrick

Jim P. O'S

Ernie L. Enye

L. J. W. H.

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John Russell

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Howard L. Berman

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Ken Van Vliet

Daniel Zigmich

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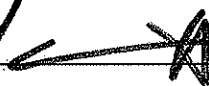
Billy S.

Jim Langdon



Rebbie Hakowson

Jim Moran

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Members signing letter re: transit funding in the FY11 Transportation-HUD Appropriations bill

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Rep. Barney Frank	Rep. George Miller
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